

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2786

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MU XF

SUBJECT: ZAWAWI'S COMMENT ON RECENT GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CON-
FERENCE

REF: MUSCAT 1488

1. OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI TOOK RELAXED ATTITUDE IN DIS-
CUSSING WITH AMBASSADOR OVER CHRISTMAS WEEKEND THE NOV 25-26
FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE HELD IN MUSCAT. THE MINISTER, WHO
HAD BEEN IN EUROPE ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE MEETING, SAID
THAT FROM HIS VIEWPOINT THE CONFERENCE WAS WORTHWHILE AND HAD
THREE DISTINCT ADVANTAGES:

A. IT WAS WELL TO HAVE FINALLY MET FORMALLY AND TO HAVE ESTABLISHED
A PRECEDENT FOR SUCH GATHERINGS.

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B. FOR THE FIRST TIME, FULL MINUTES HAD BEEN KEPT AND WOULD
BE AVAILABLE FOR ANALYZING VIEWS AND RATIONALE OF ALL PARTI-
CIPATING MINISTERS.

C. OMAN HAS THE SELF-SATISFACTION OF HAVING HOSTED THIS
SORT OF INTERNATIONAL GATHERING, AND THE INCREASED CONFIDENCE

THUS ENGENDERED.

2. ZAWAWI AVOIDED SPECULATION ON WHEN AND HOW THE STATES CONCERNED MIGHT PICK UP THE SUBSTANTIVE PIECES FROM THE MUSCAT DISCUSSIONS. HE DID MAKE CLEAR THERE WAS LITTLE IF ANY SENTIMENT AT THE CONFERENCE TO PUT OUT A COMMUNIQUE THAT WOULD BE ANYTHING SHORT OF UNANIMOUS, AND THUS RISK UPSETTING THE IRAQIS AND PERHAPS SETTING OFF A RETALIATORY CAMPAIGN BY THEM.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT OMANGOV WILL, IN BROAD TERMS, BE CONCENTRATING ITS 1977 DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY MORE ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH AREA STATES OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO IT (SAUDI ARABI, IRAN, AND THE UAE) RATHER THAN THINKING IN TERMS OF MULTILATERAL STEPS OR CONCERNS.
WOLLE

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